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REMARKS

The foregoing makes formal changes in the claims to better adapt them to U.S. practice, provides an abstract in such paragraph format, not exceeding 150 words as required by present U.S. practice and conforms the title to the published PCT application. This Preliminary Amendment supercedes the Preliminary Amendment filed with the application papers. This Preliminary Amendment is responsive to a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 CFR 1.121) dated February 14, 2002. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX I

AMENDED CLAIMS WITH AMENDMENTS INDICATED THEREIN
BY BRACKETS AND UNDERLINING

1. (amended) Process for producing a sheetlike [formulation] article comprising [at least one] a single-layer [active substance] homogenous matrix containing at least one active substance for [the] controlled release of the at least one active substance to the vicinity of an application site, the at least one active [substances] substance being selected from crop protection agents, biocides, fertilizers, plant strengtheners, cosmetic active principles and fragrances, [characterized in that the matrix is produced using at least two layers (1, 2), identical in composition, of a base material in] comprising the following temporally and spatially separate steps:

[a] provision of two prefabricable layers (1,2), identical in composition, of a base material,]

[b)] a) application of the at least one active substance to at least one of [the] two layers [(1,2)], identical in composition, of a base material,

[c)] b) placement of the two base material layers [(1, 2)] atop one another so as to enclose the at least one active substance applied, and irreversible joining of the layers with the at least one active substance therebetween under pressure to form a laminate, and

[d)] c) storage of the laminate for predeterminable duration under defined conditions [, with] to effect migration of the at least one active substance into the base material layers [(1, 2)] and connection of the base material layers at their interfaces to form a single-layer homogenous matrix [featuring] in which the at least one active substance is substantially [uniform dispensation of active substance] uniformly distributed.

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2. (amended) Process according to Claim 1, [characterized in that volumetric metering of] wherein the at least one active substance [medium] is [performed by admitting it] applied in step a) at a pressure ≤ 12 bar with metering.
3. (amended) Process according to Claim 1 or 2, [characterized in that the joining of the base material layers (1, 2) is performed under a laminating] wherein the pressure [of between] in step b) is from 2 [and] to 10 bar [, preferably between 3 and 5 bar].
4. (amended) Process according to [one or more of Claims] Claim 1 [to 3] or 2, [characterized in that] wherein the storage of [the active substance matrix (14) is performed] step c) is at a temperature of [between] 15 [and] to 30°C [, preferably between 20-24°C, with a] and the duration of the storage is at least 48 hours.
5. (amended) Process according to [one or more of Claims] Claim 1 [to 4] or 2, [characterized in that] wherein the at least one active substance [is] applied in step a) is in the form of a flowable medium having a viscosity of at least 1000 mPa.s.
6. (amended) Process according to Claim 5, [characterized in that] wherein the at least one active substance [medium is] applied in step a) contains [with a fraction of] auxiliaries.
7. (amended) Process according to [one or more of Claims] Claim 1 [to 6] or 2, [characterized in that] wherein the application of the at least one active substance in step a) [performed continuously or intermittently] is continuous or intermittent.

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8. (amended) Process according to [one or more of Claims] Claim 1 [to 7] or 2, [characterized in that the active substance] wherein said matrix [(14)] is [made] self-adhesive.

9. (amended) Process according to [one or more of Claims] Claim 1 [to 8] or 2, [characterized in that] wherein the at least one active substance is volatile or thermally labile [active substances are incorporated between the base material layers (1, 2) of the matrix].

10. (amended) Process according to [one or more of Claims] Claim 1 [to 9] or 2, [characterized in that] wherein the base material comprises at least one polymer [from one of the following groups is] selected [as the matrix base material:] from the group consisting of ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer, [block copolymer, e.g.] styrene/butadiene/styrene [or] block copolymer, styrene/isoprene/styrene block copolymer, polyisobutylene, polyacrylates, polymethacrylates, polyvinyl esters, polyamide, polyesters, cellulose derivatives and silicones.

11. (amended) Process according to [one or more of Claims] Claim 1 [to 10] or 2, [characterized in that an] wherein the at least one active substance [medium] is [used which comprises] in admixture with a tackifying [substances] substance.

12. (amended) Process according to [one or more of Claims] Claim 1 [to 11] or 2, [characterized in that an] wherein the at least one active substance [is used which is] comprises a mixture of Z,E-9,12-tetradecadienol and Z,E-9,12-tetradecadien-1-yl acetate.

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13. (amended) Process according to [one or more of Claims] Claim 1 [to 12] or 2,
[characterized in that] wherein the [matrix layers comprise one or more] base
material contains at least one of said active substances.

14. (amended) Process according to [one or more of Claims] Claim 1 [to 13] or 2,
[characterized in that] wherein the at least one [of the] active [substances] substance
is at least one of dimethoate, imidacloprid, fenpropidine, acephate and acetamiprid
[is incorporated into the matrix].

15. (amended) Process according to [one or more of Claims] Claim 1 [to 14] or 2,
[characterized in that] wherein in step a) the at least one active substance [medium]
is applied [in regular or irregular areal distribution onto] to at least one of the
[matrix] layers [(1, 2), including its application, for example, in the form of patterns
or stripes] as a pattern.

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APPENDIX II
AMENDED ABSTRACT WITH AMENDMENTS INDICATED THEREIN
BY BRACKETS AND UNDERLINING

[A process for producing a sheetlike formulation comprising at least one single-layer active substance matrix for the controlled release of active substance to the vicinity of the application site, the active substances being selected from crop protection agents, biocides, fertilizers, plant strengtheners, cosmetic active principles and fragrances, is characterized in that the matrix is produced using at least two layers (1,2), identical in composition, of a base material in the following temporally-and spatially separate steps:

e) provision of two prefabricable layers (1,2), identical in composition, of a base material,

f) application of active substance to at least one of the two layers (1,2),

g) placement of the two layers (1,2) atop one another so as to enclose the active substance applied, and irreversible joining under pressure to form a laminate,

h) storage of the laminate for predeterminable duration under defined conditions, with migration of the active substance into the base layers (1,2), and connection at their interfaces to form a homogenous matrix featuring substantially uniform dispensation of active substance. (FIG.1)] A sheetlike article comprising a single-layer homogenous matrix containing at least one active substance such as a crop protection agent, biocide, fertilizer, plant strengthener, cosmetic substance or

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fragrance, is produced by applying the at least one active substance to at least one of two layers of identical composition, placing the two layers atop one another so as to enclose the at least one active substance, irreversibly joining the layers with the at least one active substance therebetween under pressure to form a laminate and storing the laminate under defined conditions for a duration sufficient to effect migration of the at least one active substance into the base layer and connection of the layers at their interfaces.

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